

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy. Instead of something produced at "News Central" far away, it's more important that we see real people from our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard.

I strongly protest the Sinclair Groups threatened pre-emption of regular programming in order to broadcast "Stolen Honor" immediately before our national election. This is transparent electioneering on your part and, as such, is an un-American and unfair use of your power. You are operating on public airwaves and should not use your right to these airwaves in order to advance any political agenda. Should you decide to air this "Stolen Honor" program, you will be violating the public trust and showing your lack of ethical stewardship. I will personally do all in my power to contact your advertisers, investors, the FCC, and any other regulatory group I can think of to protest this shameful use of my airwaves and to mount serious local opposition to your license renewal.

Come on people! Abide by the maxim "avoid even the appearance of impropriety." Any person who has served his or her country all of his or her adult life and is now running for the highest office in the land deserves much more than childish and mean-spirited attacks - shame on Sinclair and shame on channel 6 should you air this nasty attack.

Thank you.